

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, FR

SUBJECT: CANNED MUSHROOMS FROM FRENCH MUSHROOM PACKERS
ASSN.

1. FDA ADVISES THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REMOVE FROM THE
U.S. MARKET ALL CANNED MUSHROOMS PRODUCED BY TWO PACKERS
IN THE ASSN.

2. FOLLOWING LETTER GIVES DETAILS:

QUOTE

MR. T. G. KORYN

66 BROAD STREET

CARLSTADT, NEW JERSEY 07072

DRAR MR. KORYN:

AS, YOU NO DOUBT KNOW, I.F.S. FLORIDA FOOD SERVICE, MIAMI,
FLORIDA, IS RECALLING ALL 16 OUNCE CANS OF CHOICE GIANT WHOLE
MUSHROOMS, 12/20 COUNT THAT WERE RECEIVED BY THEM FROM THE
FRENCH MUSHROOM PACKERS ASSOCIATION, PARIS, FRANCE. THIS
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ACTION WAS INITIATED AT OUR REQUEST AFTER OUR EXAMINATION
OF AN ABNORMAL CAN IN ONE SHIPMENT REVEALED THE PRESENCE

OF VIABLE CLOSTRIDIUM TETANI ORGANISMS AND PREFORMED TETANUS TOXIN, INDICATING THAT THE ABNORMAL CAN AND OTHER CANS IN THE SHIPMENT FROM THE SAME SOURCES MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER-PROCESSED, THUS REPRESENTING A THREAT TO CONSUMER SAFETY.

BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT ALL PRODUCTION FROM THE SAME SOURCE (PACKER) MAY BE UNDERPROCESSED, IT BECAME IMPERATIVE THAT THE PACKER OF THE CONTAMINATED CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND HIS THERMAL PROCESSES BE REVIEWED TO ENABLE US TO DETERMINE WHETHER OTHER PRODUCTION OF MUSHROOMS FROM THIS PACKER HAD RECEIVED PROPER THERMAL PROCESSING. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC SOURCE BECAUSE THE IMPRINTED CODES ON THIS CAN AND ALL OTHER CANS EXAMINED IN THAT SHIPMENT WERE NOT COMPLETELY LEGIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ABNORMAL CAN WAS CODED "L 364/??7R?". THE SPACES REPRESENTED BY QUESTION MARKS WERE ILLEGIBLE. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY WE WERE ABLE TO LIMIT THE SOURCE TO TWO PACKERS, EUROCONSERVES (867) AND VAL DU CHER (847). BOTH OF THESE PACKERS HAVE THE NUMBER "7" AS THE LAST DIGIT IN THEIR IDENTIFICATION CODE.

WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE THERMAL PROCESSING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT UTILIZED BY THESE TWO PLANTS. ALTHOUGH REQUESTED WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY RECORDS RELATIVE TO EITHER THE VERIFICATION OF THE SCHEDULED PROCESSES OR PROCESSING RECORDS INDICATING THAT THE SCHEDULED PROCESSES WERE DELIVERED. WE THEREFORE HAVE NO ASSURANCES THAT ANY OF THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY THESE TWO FIRMS ARE SAFE.

WE HAVE CHECKED OUR RECORDS AND FIND THAT DURING OUR RECENT SURVEY OF CANNED MUSHROOMS WE ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST 37 CODES OF MUSHROOMS PRODUCED BY VAL DU CHER AND ONE CODE OF MUSHROOMS PACKED BY EUROCONSERVES TO CONTAIN ABNORMAL CANS. SURVIVING MICROORGANISMS INDICATIVE OF UNDERPROCESSING WERE FOUND IN TWO OF THESE CODES PACKED BY VAL DU CHER ("J59/8479" AND "J98/8479").

IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS AND IN THE INTEREST OF CONSUMER
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SAFETY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RECALL FROM THE MARKETPLACE ALL CANNED MUSHROOMS PACKED BY BOTH EUROCONSERVES AND VAL DU CHER AND IMMEDIATELY HALT ANY FURTHER IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THESE PRODUCTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THIS LETTER IS DIRECTED TO YOUR ATTENTION SINCE WE UNDERSTAND YOU ARE THE SOLE AGENT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FRENCH MUSHROOM PACKERS ASSOCIATION. OUR NEWARK DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST YOU IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RECALL.

SAM D. FINE
ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR COMPLIANCE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
UNQUOTE

3. LETTER DELIVERED TO THE IMPORTER, MR. KORYN, MORNING OF
FEB. 7, 1974. FRENCH EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN ADVISED.

4. FOR INFORMATION OF EMBASSY AND USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
PACKERS ASSN. AND FOOD CONTROL OFFICIALS.
KISSINGER

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